

Israel and allies with Iran, I don't know it, and I don't know if anyone does. We must keep our finger on the pulse of this process. Liberal voices in Egypt must work to preserve the democratic goals of the January revolution.

Recently, I had the privilege of meeting some of Egypt's best and brightest young liberal leaders. They would like to build a free Egypt that respects women's rights and religious minorities and the rule of law. I was encouraged in meeting with them but only hope that the coming election is not like a 1930s election in Germany, where people in Egypt are given one choice—to affirm a dictatorship—and then that is the end.

If a radical Islamic government arises in Egypt—one that disavows the Camp David Peace Accords and no longer acts as a stable strategic partner in the Middle East—then we will look back on the recent election in Egypt and its successors in December and January as the turning point for a historic reversal of the United States.

My hope is that the State Department watches this very carefully. My hope is that we have a plan to make sure this critical country stays within the U.S. orbit. But my fear, given the recent elections in Egypt, is that we have already lost quite a bit of ground.

If current trends continue, then by the middle of next year we will have a Muslim Brotherhood government in command of the Suez Canal, in charge of Cairo—the second center of learning in the Arab world—along the border of our Israeli allies, friendly to Hamas, friendly to Iran, and hostile to Europe and the United States. My hope is that over the holidays we will work very hard and diligently with our allies—and especially liberal forces in Egypt—to make sure that reversal doesn't happen.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of Colorado). Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEAD ON ARRIVAL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the bill just passed by House Republicans tonight is a pointless, partisan exercise. The bill is dead on arrival. It was dead before it got to the Senate. The Senate will not pass it. The sooner we demonstrate that, the sooner we can begin serious discussions on how to keep taxes from going up on middle-class Americans. Democrats were ready to vote tonight to prove that the bill was DOA, dead on arrival. But I spoke to Minority Leader McConnell this evening, and he told me he will need more time. He will not

be able to make a decision until tomorrow morning on when to vote on the House-passed bill. I cannot set the vote without his approval at this time.

This is a 180-degree change in his position from just a few hours ago. Just this morning, Senator McConnell said we should "take up the House bill, pass it right here in the Senate, and send it to the President for signature without theatrics and without delay." That is a direct quote. I repeat, he said we should vote on this bill "without delay."

He is correct, and I can only wonder what happened in the last 8 hours to change his position so dramatically, so radically. As I said, we already know this bill is dead. We need to begin real negotiations on how to prevent a \$1,000 tax hike on American families. The sooner we get this vote, the sooner those negotiations can begin in earnest.

I will speak with Senator McConnell again tomorrow to determine how soon we can hold this vote—an exercise in futility. Work continues toward finalizing an omnibus to fund the government for the rest of the year. In the meantime we should not hold up this middle-class tax cut.

On January 1, every American worker will have less money. In fact, 160 million American workers will have less money to spend on groceries and gas and rent unless Congress acts on their behalf.

T.S. Eliot said it about as good as I could figure a way to say it, when he said: "Hurry up please, it's time."

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING FRANK ANDERSON

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I rise to honor a long-time friend and a hero to veterans and to those who believe in justice in Ohio: Frank Anderson, a long-time leader of paralyzed veterans in Ohio, who passed away last week from complications of an infection.

Frank was a friend and a trusted advocate. He always spoke eloquently about issues facing veterans and people living with disabilities.

Confined to a wheelchair as a paraplegic for the overwhelming majority of his adult life, Frank was soft spoken, yet larger than life, with a commanding presence.

As a leader of the Buckeye Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans Association, he drove himself to veterans events across Ohio.

He spoke out against inequality in disability pay—and the barriers that face disabled veterans, from health

care to transit accessibility, to economic opportunity.

He was a strong advocate for the Americans with Disabilities Act. He fought to ensure housing was affordable and accessible for all Americans.

He testified in front of Congress on issues facing veterans in rural areas and would return that night to Cleveland to fight for veterans in cities.

He would always do so the right way—prepared in facts and figures, armed with anecdotes and stories.

Born in Cleveland in 1953, Frank Anderson graduated from East Tech High in 1971.

In 1976, he left Bowling Green State University to enlist in the Ohio Army National Guard's 107th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

In 1981, Frank was paralyzed after an 18-wheeler crashed into an Ohio National Guard convoy he was traveling in. He recovered and rehabbed at what is now the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center in Cleveland, meeting other disabled veterans—hearing their stories, learning from them, all becoming advocates charged with helping veterans.

While taking away his ability to walk for the rest of his life, the experience strengthened his will to serve and to live his life on his terms.

He remained active in wheelchair sports—playing tennis, lifting weights, and throwing a discus and a javelin.

He became a longtime leader for all Americans with disabilities and became a trusted leader in the African-American community.

He embraced life's challenges. He made the world better for all of us—even dressing as Santa for children at the Cleveland Clinic's Children's Hospital.

He traveled the country. He cooked his favorite seafood. He listened to his favorite old rhythm and blues music.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD Frank Anderson's obituary from the Cleveland Plain Dealer and a letter about Frank's life from Bill Lawson, president of the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Cleveland Plain Dealer, Dec. 8, 2011]

(By Grant Segall)

EAST CLEVELAND.—Crashing into an Ohio National Guard convoy, an 18-wheeler paralyzed Frank W. Anderson in 1981 and inspired him to become a statewide leader for disabled veterans.

Anderson, 58, died Tuesday, Dec. 6, at the Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center from complications of an infection.

"He was a guiding light," said Ray Saikus, president of the Joint Veterans Commission of Cuyahoga County, whose first vice president was Anderson. "He was well-versed, respectful and assertive about issues."

Among many roles, Anderson was government relations director for the Paralyzed Veterans Association's Buckeye Chapter. Buckeye President Carl Harris said, "He was very effective. He did his homework. We didn't just go in and say, 'Do something

about this and figure it out.' We always had ideas on, 'You could do it this way and that way.'"

Anderson spoke about many problems, from illegal parking in spaces for the handicapped to inequities in disability pay. "There should be a standard rate for all veterans across the U.S.," he told The Plain Dealer in 2008.

Despite paraplegia, he drove himself and wheeled his chair to countless veterans' events. "We do this in remembrance," he said in 1993. "We want our children to be proud of what we did for this country."

Anderson was born in Cleveland and graduated East Tech High in 1971. In 1976, he left Bowling Green State University and enlisted in the Ohio Army National Guard's 107th Armored Cavalry Regiment. He was on active duty in Michigan when paralyzed. He was discharged the next year as a sergeant.

He joined the Paralyzed Veterans' Buckeye board in 1985, then switched to a paid job in 1987 as the group's advocacy director. He was also vice president of the Memorial Day Association of Greater Cleveland and a commissioner of Ohio Rehabilitation Services.

He belonged to the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, ADA Ohio Network, Maximum Accessible Housing of Ohio, and Greater Cleveland RTA Citizens Advisory Board. As a trustee of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, he took charge of getting it a wheelchair lift.

Anderson often played Santa at what's now the Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital. He liked to cook seafood, travel around the country and listen to music, especially old rhythm and blues.

Frank William Anderson, 1953-2011. Survivors: Wife, the former Joe Ann Huff; children, Yolanda Anderson of East Cleveland, Patrice Anderson of Cleveland, Chemenda Wilbourn-Anderson of Cleveland, Tamika Savior-Greer of Cleveland Heights and Franklin Savior of Cleveland; seven grandchildren; a sister and two brothers.

PVA BUCKEYE CHAPTER MOURNS THE LOSS OF FRANK ANDERSON

It is with deep sadness that we inform you of the passing of Frank Anderson, long-time Buckeye Chapter Government Relations Director. We were informed by the Buckeye Chapter that Frank passed away in the early morning hours of December 6, 2011.

Frank was the consummate advocate for people with disabilities known throughout the greater Cleveland area and Ohio as a vigorous and articulate spokesman on behalf of disability rights.

For Frank no effort was too small nor challenge too large if it would benefit the greater disability community and he should be remembered as a leader in the fight to secure passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A mentor to his fellow Chapter Government Relations Directors and the 2010 recipient of the Richard Fuller Outstanding Achievement in Government Relations Award, Frank exemplified the active member devoted to the goals of Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Frank leaves behind a community that is better for his efforts. On behalf of all of PVA, we extend our deepest sympathies to his many friends, colleagues, and most specifically, his loving wife Joanne and family.

Once PVA executive offices receive pertinent memorial service information from the Buckeye Chapter, we will forward to you. Thank you for sharing this news with those who may not yet be aware and would appreciate knowing.

Sincerely,

BILL LAWSON,
PVA National President.

HOMER S. TOWNSEND, Jr.,
PVA Executive Director.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, Frank served as director of government relations for the Paralyzed Veterans Association's Buckeye Chapter in my State.

He served as vice president of the Memorial Day Association of Greater Cleveland, as well as a commissioner of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services.

He belonged to the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, the ADA Ohio Network, the Maximum Accessible Housing of Ohio, and the Greater Cleveland RTA, the transit system's Citizens Advisory Board.

He was a trustee of the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial in downtown Cleveland, responsible for installing its wheelchair lift.

I will miss Frank. I will miss his friendship, his wit, and his humor. But his State and Nation will miss him more—his strong will and his dedication to public service and the lives he helped to improve.

Frank was an inspiration to anyone in or out of a wheelchair—a tireless advocate whom everyone loved and respected.

On Thursday, December 15—a couple days from now—at Mount Sinai Baptist Church, on Woodland Avenue in Cleveland, Frank's family and friends will gather for his funeral—his going home.

I wish I could be there. I will be here. But I wish I could be there to say goodbye—to join his wife Joe Ann, their children Yolanda, Patrice, Chemenda, Tamika, Franklin and seven grandchildren and Frank's sister and two brothers.

For them, I offer my condolences but also reaffirm a commitment to serving Frank's cause on behalf of all disabled Americans, especially those who are disabled and paralyzed in service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO LEO F. WEDDLE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I stand today to honor an exemplary Kentuckian and patriot, Mr. Leo F. Weddle of Somerset, KY. Mr. Weddle is a veteran of the Korean war; he selflessly served our Nation as a machine-gunner during that conflict.

In 1950, just 3 years after graduating high school, Leo decided to enlist in the Marines, an idea he had already given considerable thought to. Leo was inspired one day by the obvious pride and glamour that was exhibited by a young marine in uniform whom Leo saw from the window of his Greyhound bus as Leo was traveling home to Somerset, KY, from his sister's house in Beaumont, TX. It was at that exact moment, somewhere in a small Arkansas town, that Leo decided to enlist to serve his country.

After his introduction into the Marine Corps, Leo spent the next several months enduring the rigors of boot camp in Parris Island, SC, and combat

training at Camp Pendleton in Ocean-side, CA. When combat training concluded, Leo and his unit boarded the troopship USS *General William Weigel*. Leo's unit eventually landed in Yokuska, Japan, after 2 weeks at sea.

On June 5, 1951, the day Leo arrived in Korea, he was immediately transported to the front line for combat, where he joined George Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Division, later nicknamed "Bloody George." Leo's unit was under heavy fire from the moment he arrived. "They had just lost a machine gunner and were asking for a volunteer," he said. "Fools really do rush in where angels fear to tread, and I volunteered for the position. I served as a machine gunner for the duration of my time in Korea."

On September 21, 1951, Leo was wounded by a mortar that killed two officers and six enlisted men. Ironically, to Leo, the shell exploded closer to him than any other person, but the shrapnel propelled from it that hit him only left small pieces of metal in his legs and head. Those farther away were hit with larger pieces of metal that inflicted more severe, even fatal injuries. Six decades later, Leo still has fragments of the mortar in his legs and forehead.

Today at 77 years of age, Leo feels blessed to be able to look back on his wartime experiences as a veteran who has since lead a healthy and successful life. "I recall vividly many images of the horrors of war," Leo says, "but I also remember my fellow Marines, courageous young men with whom I shared the most intense life-and-death experiences most of us would ever face."

Leo was so inspired by these experiences that he wrote a poem while he was still in Korea to help him share the love and appreciation for America he felt half a world away. Leo believes he may never have had the opportunity to truly express these feelings had he not had the opportunity to serve his country in battle as he did.

Mr. President, I would ask that my Senate colleagues join me in thanking Mr. Leo F. Weddle, a valiant Kentucky veteran, for his courage and selflessness in fighting to preserve our country's freedom. Mr. Weddle is an honorable man whose sacrifice and lifelong success serve as an inspiration to the people of our great Commonwealth. The Commonwealth Journal, a Somerset-area publication, recently published an article written by Mr. Weddle recounting his time as a U.S. marine. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Commonwealth Journal,
November 11, 2011]

A VETERAN REMEMBERS

(By Leo F. Weddle)

In 1950, three years after my high-school graduation, the Korean War was under way and I had given considerable thought to joining the service. One beautiful autumn day I